

Gareau, Lauren (RIDOH - Contractor)

From: Terri Marks <mimi02864@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 5, 2020 7:48 PM
To: Pullano, Paula (RIDOH)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Vape Ban Putting My Health At Risk!!!

Good Afternoon,

We wanted to contact you in hopes of making it clear just how important vaping is to us as former smokers and friends of vape shops owners.

I am a 56 year of lady that used to smoke 3 packs of cigarettes everyday. After finding myself in R.I. Hospital for almost 2 weeks due COPD, my doctor told me I was being given a warning and that I couldn't continue to smoke or I wouldn't survive the next time. After being released from the hospital, I was still unable to keep away from cigarettes. 30 years of smoking had deeply ingrained itself in me. I ended up smoking again. Very quickly I became sick again and made the decision to look into vaping as an alternative for my smoking. Thank God I did!

Upon getting the right open tank system for my needs and fruit flavored e-liquids, I was able to walk away from cigarettes for the last 5 years. Over the years I have tried many different flavors and that is the only way I could stay away from cigarettes. I tried the tobacco flavored vape and in no way does it taste like a cigarette does...it's disgusting! If this ban continues and I vape through my personal stock of good tasting liquids, I don't know that I will be able to stay away from smoking if I'm forced to use tobacco flavored products.

You want to solve this problem? Takes closed systems (i.e. JUUL) away from convenience stores and gas stations. That is where younger kids work and sell to their friends. Let the adult vape shops handle the flavors and the systems. They are educated in these products and help people everyday quit smoking.

By adults going to other states to buy their products, R.I. is missing out on untold amount of sales tax and stores are suffering also with losses in sales. My husband manages a vape shop and his sales have dropped from \$13,000 monthly to just more than \$4500 in the last 30 days. How does a store that

depends on the vaping industry survive with numbers like that?
These are the only products we have to sell...convenience and
gas stations do not rely on these items...but we do. Please do
not destroy the store and our family!

Thank You For Your Time,
Terri Marks